

# Repetition and Parallelism

## ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

**rhetical device:** a technique to enhance an argument or a piece of writing

**repetition:** the use of the same word or phrase more than once for emphasis

**parallelism:** the use of similar grammatical forms to express related ideas

## HERE'S HOW

**Step 1: Identify repetition.** Look for words or phrases repeated for effect.

**Step 2: Analyze how repetition creates a rhythm or enhances the meaning.**

**Step 3: Identify parallelism.** Look for similar grammatical forms used to express related ideas.

**Step 4: Analyze how parallelism balances words or phrases.**

## EXAMPLE: REPETITION

The summer  
still hangs  
heavy and sweet  
with sunlight  
as it did last year.

The autumn  
still comes  
showering gold and crimson  
as it did least year.

—Charlotte Zolotow, “Change”

Notice the repetition of the phrase “as it did last year.” It closes both stanzas.

Read the poem aloud. Notice how the repetition helps create a regular rhythm.

The repetition helps show the regularity of seasonal cycles. So it contributes to the poem’s meaning.

**EXAMPLE: PARALLELISM**

Have you ever heard of seeing-eye dogs who help people with visual challenges? Have you ever wondered how those dogs get trained? Have you ever wanted your own dog, but have been told by your parents that you can't have one? The "Buddy Dog Camp" just may be your best answer.

The writer uses the same pronoun—*you*, the same type of sentence—a question, and the same construction—beginning with "Have you ever [action verb]."

The parallelism builds curiosity and "hooks" the reader in. It emphasizes a sense of amazement about an opportunity.